

Mulam Popular Assembly. It was therefore fitting that he should, in the open Assembly, congratulate, not only on his own behalf but on behalf of the entire Assembly, individually and collectively, that eminent and large-hearted statesman on his elevation to the high office of Dewan of that model Native State of Baroda, which he so highly deserved.]

Dewan's reply.—The representations of the Member will be referred to all Heads of Departments for remarks.

143. The need for giving greater facilities for the entertainment of sea-coast Christians in the Public Service and for their better education.

Mr. X. G. Lopez (Member, Nominated) said that the sea-coast Christians, though they came under the general class of Christians, were in the most backward condition. They had yet to realise the value and importance of education, which alone raised the social and political status of a community. They were mostly landless people, maintaining themselves by catching and curing fish and by some petty trades. Excepting a small minority, the rest were all illiterate. Poverty was staring them in the face and they were therefore unable to start schools in their midst. Unless and until the Government introduced a free and compulsory system of elementary education among them and granted them also some fee concessions, such as were given to the Eazhavas, Mahomedans and Pulayas, the community would have to remain perpetually in the same backward condition. The baptismal registers in churches would be a correct guide at finding out if one belonged to the community. Considering the present social condition of the sea-coast Christians, it was unlikely that other Christian communities would profess to belong to the community of sea-coast Christians. He requested that the matter might receive kind consideration.

He next pointed out that, excepting a few solitary instances, they were kept out of the public service altogether. In their case, a rigid adherence to the rules regarding the qualifications for entertainment in the public service should not be insisted on; but the concessions granted to the Eazhavas, Mahomedans, and Pulayas should be extended to them. He therefore prayed that they might be given greater facilities for entertainment in the public service in the subordinate ranks.

Finally, the Member thanked the Dewan most sincerely and humbly, both on his behalf and on behalf of the community, for the recognition shown to the community by nominating to the Assembly at least one of their number. The enlightened policy of the present administration, if only continued, would, he felt sure, result in untold blessings to the whole country, and particularly to the backward communities. He therefore represented that the community would ever be grateful to the Dewan for the enlightened policy pursued and that they devoutly prayed that he be spared in full health and glory for many years more to continue his noble mission.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

144. Special encouragement to the South Travancore Christians in the subordinate Service of the State.

Mr. S. K. Appann (Member, Nominated) said that the South Travancore Christians, who were mostly converts from the depressed classes, such as the Channans, Eazhavas, Pariahs and Pulayas, formed one-fourth of the population and one-third of the literates of South Travancore; but they were practically not represented in the subordinate service of the State. In spite of the liberal policy of the Government in entertaining the South Travancore Christians in the service, the Heads of Departments, in whom the power of appointment was vested, would not generally entertain them on the ground of their being Christians who, as a class, were fairly represented in the service. The Member requested that the sympathetic policy of the Government in the matter of entertaining the depressed classes in the service should be pursued in the case of the South Travancore Christians and that the Heads of Departments and Officers

should be instructed to reserve a certain number of appointments in the ministerial and menial service of the State for the members of the community.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

145. Appointment of qualified Mahomedans in the Public Service.

Mr. Shaik Mahomed Hamidani Thangal (Member, Nominated) said that, while the Mahomedan community was grateful to the Government for the several boons conferred on them, he had to repeat his representation for the entertainment of qualified members of the community more largely in the various public departments. He also requested that a Mahomedan Judge should be appointed to the High Court. There was no qualified person in the community available for the place in Travancore. He suggested that one should be found from outside and appointed as a Judge at Trivandrum.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

146. The need for appointing the Pulayas in the Lower ranks of the Service and a Pulaya Member to the Assembly from the Kottayam Division.

Mr. T. Chothi (Member, Nominated) said that, among the Pulayas, there were men who knew how to read and write Malayalam, and he requested that they might be entertained in the lower ranks of the service, in departments where they could possibly be taken. He requested also that a Pulaya Member, to be nominated by the Secretary of the Sadhu Jana Paripalana Sangham, might be appointed as a Member of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly from the Kottayam Division also.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

147. The disabilities of the Pariahs of Nanjanad.

Mr. P. Arumanayagam (Member, Nominated) said that, in Nanjanad, the Pariahs were the chief tillers of the soil and the condition of agriculture there greatly depended on them. They had no lands of their own, but they worked for others for wages, and were, therefore, very poor. They lived in congested areas where there was no scope for expansion. There were certain *poramboke* lands in close proximity to their dwellings, which were not of much use to others or for any purposes of the Government. He requested that steps might be taken to register them in the names of the Pariahs, in consultation with the Dewan Peishkar.

There were certain lanes, canals and lands by the side of the paddy lands in which they worked, and they constituted the roads for them and their cattle. During the rains, those lanes and canals would be wholly under water. He requested that a few village roads might be constructed for their use, also in consultation with the Dewan Peishkar.

Even for agriculture and petty trade in which the community was engaged, some education was necessary. He requested that they might be taught Tamil up to Class VII, and that the Pariah boys and girls be exempted from the payment of school fees up to Form V.

With the removal of the temporary dispensary at Thadikarankonam, the people of the places between Suralakode and Kadukkara suffered much for want of medical aid. They had at present to go to Bhuthapandy for the purpose. The places were unhealthy during the monsoons. He, therefore, prayed for the opening of a dispensary at a central place in the locality.

Dewan's reply.—The Peishkar of the Division will be called on to report on the whole question.